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plicant: Harold L. Mantius et al.

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Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants submit copies of the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. A copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application is also enclosed

This statement is being filed after a first Office action on the merits, but before receipt of a final Office action or a Notice of Allowance. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that each item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the communication being dated December 17, 2002. which is not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 00414-063001.

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Respectfully submitted.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL.

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

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